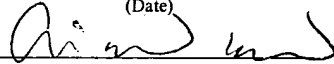


## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Wells, et al. ) Group Art Unit Unknown  
)  
Appl. No. : Unknown (This is a Continuation ) I hereby certify that this correspondence and all  
of copending Application of ) marked attachments are being deposited with the  
U.S. Serial No. 09/981,547 ) United States Postal Service as first-class mail in  
) an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for  
) Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on  
)  
Filed : Herewith ) January 11, 2002  
) (Date)  
)   
) Ginger R. Dreger, Reg. No. 33,055  
For : METHODS FOR RAPIDLY )  
IDENTIFYING SMALL )  
ORGANIC MOLECULE )  
LIGANDS FOR BINDING TO )  
BIOLOGICAL TARGET )  
MOLECULES )  
  
Examiner : Unknown

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The present Preliminary Amendment is filed concurrently with the filing of a continuation of copending application Serial No. 09/981,547 filed on October 17, 2001.

Kindly amend this application in the following aspects:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 1, without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

~~40. A process comprising~~

B1 (a) screening a library of small organic compounds with a target protein-ligand conjugate formed by the covalent bonding of a biological target molecule comprising a first reactive functionality with a compound that comprises (1) a second reactive functionality and (2) a chemically reactive group, wherein the second reactive functionality of the compound reacts